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CLAIMS

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims.

Claims 1-26 (cancelled)

27. (currently amended) A method for use with differing electro-mechanical infrastructures, to minimize the effects on the performance of a first RF radiating/receiving element located within one such infrastructure due to its interactions with said such one infrastructure, comprising the step of placing a first metallic structure physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than said such one infrastructure is.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein said placed first metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in ~~from~~ said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 28, comprising the additional step of placing a second metallic structure physically closer to a second RF radiating/receiving element than said such one infrastructure is, wherein said placed second metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in ~~from~~ said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said placing of first

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and second metallic structures is performed to effect cooperative RF performance of said first and second antennas.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the cooperative performance is achieved by locating said first and second antennas so that the dominant null of the RF radiating/receiving element of one antenna is mitigated by the RF radiating/receiving element of the other antenna.

32. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~31~~ 27, wherein said such one ~~the~~ infrastructure is that of a conventional resource-measuring meter.

33. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~32~~ 28, wherein said such one ~~the~~ infrastructure is that of a conventional resource-measuring meter.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said placing of first metallic structure includes (a) the supporting of said first metallic structure with a supporter having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of said first RF radiating/receiving element and (b) the shaping of said supporter to maximize the amount of surface space for supporting said first metallic structure.

35. (currently amended) A method of retrofitting a conventional resource-measuring unit having a metallic infrastructure of conventional prongs, brackets, rivets and metallic elements, with RF telemetry functionality, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing RF functionality with a first RF radiating/receiving element within said ~~the~~ infrastructure; and

(b) placing a first metallic structure physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than said ~~the~~ infrastructure is.

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36. (currently amended) The method of claim 35, wherein said placed first metallic structure is radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in ~~from~~ said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of:

(c) placing a second metallic structure physically closer to said second RF radiating/receiving element than said ~~the~~ infrastructure is.

38. (currently amended) The method of claim 37, wherein said placed second metallic structure is radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in ~~from~~ said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

39. (previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein said RF functionality activates one or the other of, or both, said first and second slot antennas.

40. (currently amended) An RF telemetry unit for use with differing electro-mechanical infrastructures, comprising:

(a) a first RF radiating/receiving element locatable within one such infrastructure; and

(b) a first metallic structure placed physically closer to said first RF radiating/receiving element than any said one such infrastructure is.

41. (currently amended) The unit of claim 40, wherein said first metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said first RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in ~~from~~ said material, thereby forming a first slot antenna.

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42. (currently amended) The unit of claim 41, further comprising:

(d) a second RF radiating/receiving element;

(e) a second metallic structure placed physically closer to said second RF radiating/receiving element than said one such infrastructure is, wherein, wherein placed second metallic structure is RF radiating/receiving material and said second RF radiating/receiving element is a slot formed in ~~from~~ said material, thereby forming a second slot antenna.

43. (previously presented) The unit of claim 42, wherein said first and second metallic structures are located to effect cooperative RF performance of said first and second antennas.

44. (previously presented) The unit of claim 43, wherein the cooperative performance is achieved by locating said first and second antennas so that the dominant null of the radiating/receiving element of one antenna is mitigated by the radiating/receiving element of the other antenna.

45. (currently amended) The unit of claim 40, wherein said one such infrastructure is that of a conventional resource-measuring meter.

46. (previously presented) The unit of claim 45, wherein the meter has a cover and said first antenna is located under said cover.

47. (previously presented) The unit of claim 40, wherein the first metallic structure includes a supporter therefor, having dielectric properties that do not adversely affect the performance of the radiating/receiving element, and the supporter is shaped to maximize the amount of surface space available for supporting said first metallic structure.